



# HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER (HRC)

CHASKA, MN

Located adjacent to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the Horticultural Research Center (HRC) is one of the leading institutions in the Upper Midwest for fruit and woody landscape plant breeding and conservation of rare and threatened native plants. The breeding programs have produced over 150 plant introductions since 1908 that are cold-hardy for growing in Minnesota's climate, work that benefits both northern gardeners and commercial growers.

The Apple House, located on MN Hwy 5, 1 mile west of the Arboretum entrance, is a popular destination from late August through December to purchase apples from University varieties and experimental selections from the breeding program as well as apple cider, horticultural gift items, and a huge variety of squash and pumpkins.

**HRC's research focuses on:**

- Tree fruits and berries
- Grapes for wine and fresh eating
- Trees and shrubs for the landscape
- Wine and cider production
- Native orchids
- Rare and endangered native plants

163 TOTAL PLANT  
INTRODUCTIONS

12  
GRAPE  
INTRODUCTIONS  
FOUNDATION OF  
OUR NORTHERN  
WINE INDUSTRY

29  
APPLE  
INTRODUCTIONS  
FEATURING  
HONEYCRISP,  
SWEETANGO,  
RAVE®/FIRST KISS®

230 ACRES

**HRC AT A GLANCE**

400+ MINNESOTA RARE  
PLANT AND ORCHID  
ACCESSIONS

58  
VARIETIES OF  
TREES, SHRUBS, &  
ORNAMENTAL GRASSES  
INTRODUCED

40  
YEARS OF  
APPLE  
ROOTSTOCK  
EVALUATION

3,000+ NATIVE SEED SOURCES  
BANKED IN NATIONALLY  
RECOGNIZED SEED BANK





## HRC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

### CONSERVING OUR REGION'S NATIVE PLANTS

The HRC is a key location for the gene bank and propagation activities of the Arboretum's Plant Conservation Program. Seeds of orchids and rare plants collected from around the region are processed and stored in the gene bank. Some specimens are propagated for conservation in Arboretum collections and for education programs with children and adults.

### SELECTING NEW PLANTS FOR OUR LANDSCAPES

The Woody Landscape Plant Breeding project develops new and improved trees and shrubs for Minnesota and the surrounding region through traditional breeding, selection, and evaluation. The program is well-known for deciduous azalea varieties and roses. These and numerous other species are evaluated in research plots at the HRC to determine their adaptation to our winters, resistance to disease, and value in northern landscapes.

### BREEDING FRUIT CROPS FOR OUR REGION

Apples, grapes, and other fruit crops are improved by breeding and selection in plots at the HRC. The goal is to introduce fruit cultivars with improved horticultural characteristics, disease and pest resistance, and fruit quality characters desired by growers and consumers in Minnesota and surrounding areas. Varieties introduced through breeding at the HRC are the basis of Minnesota's apple, wine grape, and blueberry industry.

#### QUESTIONS?

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